



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa receives a token of appreciation from Captain Waleed Al Alawi

HH Shaikh Khalid tours Royal Golf Club

● **HH Shaikh Khalid inspects club's facilities in preparation for first-ever Bahrain Championship on the 2024 DP World Tour**

TDT | Manama

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General

Sports Authority (GSA) president and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) chief His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa made an inspection visit yesterday to the Royal Golf Club, which is preparing to host the first-ever Bahrain Championship on the 2024 DP World Tour.

The prestigious golf tournament is scheduled to take place 1 to 4 February next year under the patronage of His Majesty the King.

HH Shaikh Khalid was ac-

companied on his visit by GSA CEO Dr Abdulrahman Askar, Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority CEO Dr Nasser Qaedi, BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, and the Royal Golf Club's chairman Captain Waleed Al Alawi.

The DP World Tour is also known as the PGA European Tour. The Bahrain Championship will carry a US\$2.5million prize fund, and it will attract many of the top professional players in golf from around the world.



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and other officials during their tour of the facility

Verstappen ties Prost with 51st win

Max Verstappen secures his 16th victory of the season and matches a legendary F1 milestone

● **Verstappen starts from third on the grid but takes the lead at the start and dominates the race**

● **Lewis Hamilton finishes second, and Charles Leclerc takes third place**

AFP | Mexico City

World champion Max Verstappen drew level with Alain Prost on 51 Formula One victories on Sunday when he claimed his record 16th triumph of the season at the Mexican Grand Prix.

Starting from third on the grid, the Red Bull driver stole the lead at the start and then dominated the race, which was punctuated by a lengthy red flag stoppage when Kevin Magnussen crashed heavily in his Haas.

The 26-year-old Dutchman came home 13.875 seconds ahead of a revitalised Lewis Hamilton, who started sixth, with pole-sitter Charles Leclerc taking third place ahead of his Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz.

Lando Norris finished a glorious fifth for McLaren after an



Red Bull's Max Verstappen is greeted by the checkered flag as he wins the race

enthralling drive through the field from 17th on the grid, ahead of George Russell in the second Mercedes.

It was Verstappen's fifth win in Mexico and his record-equaling 18th podium finish this year while the luckless Leclerc, who collided with Sergio Perez's Red Bull at the first corner, endured his 11th successive failure to convert pole into a victory.

Perez spun off, recovered and retired, much to the disappointment of his home Mexican fans in a big crowd at the high-altitude Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez.

"It is just incredible," said Verstappen. "To win from P3, it's just amazing. I started P3 and

the car was really great. It was a very strong race and now I don't know -- more wins, maybe 17 or 18!"

Hamilton, who was disqualified after finishing second in the United States a week earlier, said: "I feel fresh. I was pushing, but not crazy hard. It is a great result, considering we started sixth. This is a great result for us in a difficult few weeks."

Leclerc noticed "a lot of booing" from the crowd and explained his part in Perez's exit.

"I had nowhere to go. I was between the two Red Bulls. Checo damaged my car and it ended his race. It was not on purpose."

Daniel Ricciardo finished a creditable seventh for Alpha

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MAX VERSTAPPEN

Tauri ahead of Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren, Williams' Alex Albon and Esteban Ocon of Alpine.

Verstappen's fast start

Verstappen made a sensational start, powering between the Ferraris to take the inside line after the 800-metre rush from Turn One.

Sensing a chance, Perez went three abreast with Verstappen and Leclerc, but clipped the Ferrari's front wing and bounced off.

To loud groans, he rejoined, limped to the pits and retired, beating his steering wheel in frustration while Leclerc con-

tinued with a flapping front wing which soon fell off.

The stewards noted he was driving in an "unsafe condition" and decided to investigate after the race.

"I went for it," said Perez, accepting the blame. "There wasn't room for three cars. In hindsight, I should have backed off, but it's my home race."

By lap 20, Verstappen led by 4.6 seconds before pitting for hards, handing the lead to Leclerc.

He rejoined seventh behind Russell and swiftly rose to fifth as his rivals pitted before Kevin Magnussen crashed heavily at Turn Nine to



prompt a safety car.

The Dane escaped, apparently unhurt, but his blazing Haas was wrecked, as Verstappen led a charge for cheap pit-stops and retained his lead before the race was red-flagged.

After a 20-minute interlude to clear the debris, the race resumed with a standing start, which Verstappen, on hards, nailed ahead of Leclerc as Hamilton on mediums looked for a gap.

It appeared on lap 40, when he dived inside the Monegasque at Turn One in vintage style to take second.

"It's going to be a tough stint," said Hamilton, assessing his chances as Verstappen pulled four seconds clear and built a luxurious cushion.



Max Verstappen

Dar Kulaib begin title defence with win

● **Defending champions sweep Al Dair in three sets in Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League**

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Defending champions Dar Kulaib powered to a convincing 3-0 (25-18, 25-19, 25-18) victory over Al Dair last night in their opening match of the 2023/2024 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

After having a bye in the first week of the new season, Dar Kulaib kick-started their campaign with the three-set sweep of their opponents to begin week two.

They joined Muharraq, Nabih Saleh and Busateen as winners of their opening contests in Group A.

The 14 participating clubs

this season have been divided into two groups for the preliminary stage. Group A also includes Ma'ameer and A'ali; while Group B features Al Najma, Al Ahli, Al Nasser, Bani Jamra, Tadamun, Al Shabab and Etehad Al Reef.

League action continues tonight with Muharraq taking on Ma'amer at 6pm followed at 7.30pm by Najma playing Etehad Al Reef. Tomorrow, Ahli face Tadamun at 6pm and then Busateen play Nabih Saleh at 7.30pm.

Following a single round-robin, the top three teams from each group qualify for the top six, while the remainder play in a bottom-tier league.

The top six will then play two rounds, with the top four making it through to the Golden Square semi-finals. There, the top seeds play the fourth and the second seeds take on the third.

BRAVE CF 79: Ismail Naurdiev moves up to Middleweight, meets Tahar Hadbi in main event

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Two-time BRAVE CF Super Welterweight title challenger Ismail Naurdiev is moving up in weight in search of the elusive world title. "The Austrian Wonderboy" headlines BRAVE CF 79, on December 8, as he makes his Middleweight debut against Tahar "Fast Hands" Hadbi.

In the co-main event, Heavyweight giants collide, as Pavel Dailidko looks for his third straight BRAVE CF victory against Hungary's Janos Csukas.

Ismail Naurdiev signed with BRAVE CF in early 2021 and made his debut headlining BRAVE CF 50 against then-champion Jarrah Al-Silawi. He lost the fight via second-round TKO, but bounced back with two dominant victories. First, in a Fight of the Year winner against Olli Santalahti, then in a first-round stoppage of Bekten Zheebekov, which earned him another shot at gold.



Despite breaking Marcin Banel's jaw early on in their BRAVE CF 63 title fight, he succumbed to the new champion via armbar submission. After another loss at Super Welterweight, Naurdiev has decided to move up to 185 pounds.

He will meet fellow Middleweight debutant Tahar Hadbi, who made his promotional debut all the way back in 2017 at BRAVE CF 5 and was noted for

kicking off his BRAVE CF career with two No Contests. He then earned the only win of his stint against arch-rival Mohammad Fakhreddine before losing to Jarrah Al-Silawi.

"Fast Hands" then suffered a heart attack after training in early 2019, but was given the all clear to return to MMA, following a miraculous recovery. Hadbi last fought in the main event of BRAVE CF 38, when

he lost to Giannis Bachar. As is the case with his opponent, the French-Algerian fighter is hoping a move to Middleweight will reignite his career.

In the co-main event of BRAVE CF 79, Pavel Dailidko will look for his third straight victory under the BRAVE CF banner as he welcomes Janos Csukas.

The Lithuanian giant, who trains with the likes of Tom Aspinall and Phil de Fries, is eager to make a statement in search of the Heavyweight title, while Csukas will make history as he becomes the first Hungarian fighter to represent his country at BRAVE CF.

BRAVE CF 79 is the second of three professional events that highlight the BRAVE International Combat Week, at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Bahrain. Between December 5 and December 15, three shows will take place in the Kingdom as well as the IMMAF Asian Championships.